

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response is submitted in complete response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2007.

Claims 118, 120, 124, 130, 134 and 136-141 are amended herein without prejudice in order to overcome all the outstanding rejections and objections. These amendments should not raise any new issues and are consistent with the Examiner's suggestions in the Office Action as to suitable language consistent with the written description and enabling support in the as-filed specification .

Turning now to the Office Action, claims 118, 120 and 124 stand objected to based on various informalities. These objections are moot in view of the amendments to claims 118, 120 and 124 herein. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 130-132 and 134-141 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph based on alleged non-enablement. The Office Action alleges that the specification does not enable use of a non-isolated cell, i.e., one comprised in a transgenic animal. This rejection should be moot as claim 130, 134 and 166-141 now recite and "isolated recombinant cell" containing the recited T2R sequence which is operatively linked to a heterologous promoter. Withdrawal of this rejection is also respectfully requested.

Claims 118-141 were rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. These rejections are moot in view of the amendments of claim 118 and 119 and 124 herein adding the SEQ ID NO's, and changing "Contained in" to "of". Applicants note that they intend for this to refer to the full length hT2R76 polypeptide sequence. If the Examiner does not agree he is respectfully requested to suggest alternative language as the current language is

believed to be adequate. Withdrawal of the 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 118-141 is respectful requested.

Claims 118-124 were rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as still encompassing the cited NCBI Entrez Nucleotide database record as the Examiner was of the view that the prior amended claim 118 did not adequately convey that the recited hT2R76 sequence was linked to a heterologous promoter that regulates the transcription thereof. This rejection is overcome as claim 118 has been amended to change "operably" to "operatively" as suggested by the Examiner. For the record Applicants note that these words were believed to be synonymous and indeed the prior wording appears in innumerable patents.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 102(a) rejection of claims 118-124 is respectfully requested.

It is anticipated that the present amendments and remarks will render moot all of the outstanding objections and rejections and that this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions relating to this application, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 703-714-7645 (direct) or rteskin@hunton.com.

Applicants believe that this response is being submitted timely and that no additional fees are due with the filing hereof. However, in the event a variance exist in the calculations by the U.S. PTO, Applicants hereby authorize the granting of any extension of time, including the appropriate fees as required to enter this response. Please charge or credit any variance of the amount enclosed to our Deposit Account Number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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